

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 3319

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: UNGA, ECOSOC, PORG
SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN'S VIEWS ON NGO PARTICIPATION IN THE WORLD
CONFERENCE AGAINST RACISM

1. SUMMARY: BECAUSE EALIER DISCUSSIONS WITH THE EGYPTIAN MISSION HAD INDICATED THAT THE EGYPTIANS WERE PROPOSING A FORMULA FOR THE WORLD CONFERENCE WHICH WOULD EXCLUDE AMERICAN JEWISH NGO'S, ASSISTANT SECRETARY MAYNES MET AT LUNCHEON ON SEPTEMBER 26 WITH AMR MOUSSA, HEAD OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION SECTION OF THE EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY, TO DISCUSS THE EGYPTIAN POSITION ON THE ISSUE OF NGO PARTICIPATION IN THE WORLD CONFERENCE AGAINST RACISM. MOUSSA SAID THAT HE HAD TO CONSULT WITH HIS AMBASSADOR BUT THAT HE COULD GUARANTEE THAT EGYPT WOULD NOT PRESS THE LANGUAGE TO WHICH WE OBJECTED. END SUMMARY.

2. MAYNES OUTLINED FOR MOUSSA THE POLITICAL DISADVANTAGES FOR EGYPT WITHIN THE U.S. IN BEING SEEN AS THE SPEARHEAD OF AN EFFORT TO BAR AMERICAN JEWISH NGO'S FROM PARTICIPATING IN THE WORLD CONFERENCE. MAYNES STRESSED THAT NO SINGLE ISSUE EVOKED SUCH EMOTION AMONG THE
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AMERICAN JEWISH COMMUNITY OR BOUGHT THAT COMMUNITY SUCH BROAD SUPPORT AS THE ZIONISM-RACISM ISSUE IN THE UN CONTEXT. HE THEREFORE COULD NOT SEE WHY IT WAS IN EGYPT'S INTEREST TO PRESS THIS QUESTION.

3. MOUSSA REPLIED THAT HE COULD UNDERSTAND THE LOGIC OF THIS. WHILE EGYPT WOULD DO NOTHING TO

DEFEND AMERICAN JEWISH NGO'S IT WOULD ACT IN ITS OWN INTEREST AND HE COULD THEREFORE ASSURE US THAT EGYPT WOULD NOT SUBMIT THE FORMULA WHICH HAD DISTURBED US SO MUCH. BUT HE ADDED THAT EGYPT COULD ALSO NOT OPPOSE A SIMILAR FORMULA IF ANOTHER GOVERNMENT RAISED IT.

4. MAYNES PROVIDED MOUSSA WITH ACCEPTABLE FORMULATIONS FOR THE NGO ISSUE. HE NOTED THAT EGYPT DID NOT HAVE TO DEFEND THE PARTICIPATION OF JEWISH NGO'S, IT ONLY HAD TO SUPPORT BEHIND THE SCENES THE IDEA FOR FOLLOWING A POLICY TOWARDS NGO PARTICIPATION WHICH IS TRADITIONAL IN THE UN. MOUSSA SAID HE WOULD DISCUSS THESE POSSIBILITIES WITH HIS AMBASSADOR.

5. IN FOLLOW-UP CONVERSATION WITH EGYPTIAN MISSION OFFICER SOBHY, WE DISCUSSED FORMULAS FOR DEALING WITH NGO ISSUE. AFTER EXTENSIVE DISCUSSION, SOBHY SAID HE WOULD SUGGEST TO HIS AMBASSADOR CRITERIA (A) AND (B) LISTED IN PARAGRAPH FOUR OF USUN'S 2938, NAMELY "ALL NGO'S IN CONSULTATIVE CATEGORY NUMBER 1 WOULD BE ELIGIBLE;" AND "ALL NGO'S WHICH HAVE SUBMITTED INFORMATION ON THE PROGRAM FOR THE WORLD CONFERENCE WOULD BE ELIGIBLE." SOBHY PROPOSES TO DROP (C) OR ALL NGO'S WHICH ARE MEMBERS OF EITHER GENEVA OR NYC NGO COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS WOULD BE ELIGIBLE, BUT CONFIDENTIAL

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HE NOTES AND WE HAVE CONFIRMED THE FIRST TWO CATERGORIES COVER SOME JEWISH NGO'S INCLUDING WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS. WE TOLD SOBHY THAT WE COULD ACCEPT CRITERIA THAT WERE REASONABLE AND NON-DISCRIMINATORY. WE WISHED TO REVIEW THE PRACTICAL IMPACT OF HIS PROPOSAL AND WOULD GET BACK TO HIM. YOUNG

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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